



Annual Performance Report Form

Facility Name: Norco Cleaners, Inc.

Performance Track ID #: A050003

Annual Performance Report #: 1

Reporting Year: 2001

Due Date: April 1, 2002

Section A

General Facility Information

To the extent possible, EPA will pre-complete items A.1-A.8 for you. Please ensure that the information in A.1-A.8 below is accurate, complete, and up to date. Please supply or revise any information as necessary and then check the box to the left of the item(s) to indicate where changes have been made. Items A.9 and A.10 cannot be pre-completed; please respond as directed in A.9 and A.10 below.

Did you make changes? If so, check box.

- A.1 ☐ Name of your facility: Norco Cleaners, Inc.
- A.2 ☐ Name of your parent company:
- A.3 ☐ Facility contact person for the Performance Track program
Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. John Spomar Jr.
Title: President
Phone: 708/841-6220 Fax: 708/841-6222 E-mail: Spomar1@aol.com
- A.4 ☐ Facility's location
Street Address: 1320 E. Dolton Ave.
Street Address (cont.):
City/State/Zip Code: Dolton, Illinois 60419
- A.5 ☐ Facility's website address (if any): shopcpn.com/webpage/display.cgi?uid=20189
- A.6 ☐ Number of employees (full-time equivalents) who currently work in the facility:
☒ Fewer than 50 ☐ 50 - 99 ☐ 100 - 499 ☐ 500 - 1000 ☐ More than 1000
- A.7 ☐ Does your company meet the Small Business Administration definition of a small business for your sector? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- A.8 ☐ North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Code(s) that are used to classify business at the facility: 812320 _____
- A.9 ☐ In your application and, perhaps, in previous annual performance reports, you described what your facility does or makes. Have there been any (additional) changes to your facility's list of products and/or activities? If so, please list them in the space below. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- A.10 ☐ Please update the list of environmental requirements that apply to your facility. In the space below, indicate any changes that have taken place during this reporting period. If you have no changes to report, please write "No changes."
"No changes"

Section B

Environmental Management System

B.1 Environmental Management System Assessment. Please summarize EMS assessments conducted *during the year*. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

a. Was an EMS audit or other assessment done by an independent third party?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the *type* (e.g., ISO 14001 certification), the *scope*, and the *dates* (mo/yr) of each assessment.

b. Was an internal or corporate EMS audit conducted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the *scope* and the *dates* (mo/yr) of each audit.

December 2001 an internal audit was conducted with out third party auditor, Safety & Environmental Compliance Consultants, Inc.- Henry & Jan Parker, 1003 E. 173rd St., South Holland, Illinois 60473. The scope include both EPA and OSHA requirements. A review of our monitoring equipment for our underground storage tanks and requirements for the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund was also completed. The corporate officers and managers are included in the audit team.

c. Was a compliance audit conducted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the *scope* and the *dates* (mo/yr) of each audit, and indicate *who* conducted the audit(s) (e.g., facility staff, corporate groups, third party).

Third party audits were conducted in February, August and December of 2001. S&ECC are on a retainer for our compliance programs. Complete EPA and OSHA regulations pertaining to our industry are audited with the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund as the focal point. The manager of the drycleaning and laundry departments respectively accompany the third party auditor along with one corporate officer.

d. (Optional) If you would like to describe any other audits or inspections that were conducted at your facility, please do so here.

In June, the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund associate audited our plant facilities for the insurance program. Our insurance policy was renewed in October. In October, the Illinois State Fire Marshal made an inspection of our UST flex connectors which passed.

Section B

(continued)

B.1

e. Briefly summarize corrective actions taken and other improvements made as a result of your EMS assessments and compliance audits.

Our audit team made a simplified and revised form for our machine maintenance and solvent purchase records to be included on one reporting sheet for the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund. We also redirected our solvent recovery (reclamation) to be collected in containers that would measure the amount of reclaimed solvents rather than direct piping to the storage tank.

f. Has your facility corrected all instances of potential non-compliance and EMS non-conformance identified during your audits and other assessments?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ No such instances identified

If no, please explain your plans to correct these instances.

g. When was the last Senior Management review of your EMS completed? *mo/yr* 12/2001

Who headed the review?

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. John Spomar Jr

Title: President

Section B

(continued)

B.2 ISO 14001 Certification. Is your facility currently certified to ISO 14001? ☐ Yes ☒ No

B.3 Environmental Aspects Identification. When did your facility last conduct a systematic identification and/or review of your environmental aspects? *mo/yr* 12/2001

B.4 Progress Toward Achieving Objectives and Targets. In the table below, please provide a narrative summary of progress made toward EMS objectives and targets. **You may limit the summary to environmental aspects that are *significant* and towards which *progress* has been made during the *reporting year*.** In cases where progress relates specifically to a Performance Track performance commitment, complete the *Environmental Aspect* column, but in the *Progress* column simply refer to the performance commitment tables in Section C, i.e. "See Section C." Attach additional sheets as necessary.

<i>Environmental Aspect</i>	<i>Progress Made This Year</i> (e.g., quantitative or qualitative improvements, activities conducted)
Waste	"see Section C"
Material	"see SectionC"
Waste	"see Section C"
Energy	"see Section C"

Section C

Environmental Performance Commitments

Please use the tables on pages 6-9 to summarize your facility's environmental performance against your Performance Track performance commitments. Complete only those boxes related to the baseline, current year, and performance commitment. If any of the boxes have been pre-completed for you, please verify the information. If you find information that is incorrect, cross it out and write in the correct information. **Leave blank any columns for future reporting years.**

C.1

Performance Commitment 1

a. Use this table to report data related to your first performance commitment.

Category (see page 16 of the instructions): Waste

Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): Total Hazardous Waste

	<i>Baseline (as stated in your application)</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application)</i>
<i>Calendar Year</i>	1999	2001			2003
<i>Actual Quantity (per year)</i>	1134	972			567 (optional)
<i>Measurement Units</i>	Pounds				
<i>Normalizing Factor*</i>	1.0	.9893372			1 (optional)
<i>Basis for your Normalizing Factor*</i>	Pound of Clothes Cleaned				
<i>Normalized Quantity* (per year)</i>	1134	982.5			567

*See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress.

First Aspect: WASTE

The drycleaning operation requires special filtration systems to clean the cleaning solvents that are used to remove soils from garments and other textiles. The filter system has changeable cartridge filters that must be hauled away as a hazardous waste when solvents remain in the cartridge filter upon disposal. The reduction of the amount of cartridges disposed in a hazardous waste site is the goal of this aspect.

Our 1995 and 1996 and 1997 amount of cartridges manifested to a site were 63 cartridges. In 1998 our waste stream began its down turn when we installed a Jupiter PreFilter System. By 1999 and 2000 our waste was reduced to 42 cartridges annually. In 2001 we began a daily monitoring of solvent flow rates to achieve maximum expenditure of the individual filter.

The use of a pre-filter system which is of a "bag" type with a one micron fabric is used to catch particles before they attached themselves to the paper cartridge. Our cartridge waste was reduced in 2001 to the equivalent of 36 cartridges spent. Using the pre-filter system also produces a highly filtered cleaning solvent to a 1 micron level were as the cartridge filter paper is 30 microns. Thus the cleaning performance is of a much higher quality and the garments are cleaner.

The environmental efforts have reduced waste from 63 cartridges to 36 cartridges annually for a 42.8% reduction in waste. Over a three year period we have reduced our waste stream by 27 cartridges per year with an annual cost saving of \$864 for disposal. The cost of the pre-filter equipment was \$2700. The payback period is 3.125 years. In addition to the cost savings and reduced the environmental impact by using the pre-filter system, we have kept our cleaning solvent consistently cleaner and clearer while increasing the life expectancy of the cartridge filter considerably.

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL).

Governor's Pollution Prevention at the Waste Management & Research Center

Section C

(continued)

C.2 Performance Commitment 2

a. Use this table to report data related to your second performance commitment.

Category (see page 16 of the instructions): Material					
Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): Total Material Used.					
	<i>Baseline (as stated in your application)</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application)</i>
<i>Calendar Year</i>	1999	2001			2003
<i>Actual Quantity (per year)</i>	12,892.15	14,461.07			12,120.55 (optional)
<i>Measurement Units</i>	Pounds				
<i>Normalizing Factor*</i>	1.0	.9893372			1.0 (optional)
<i>Basis for your Normalizing Factor*</i>	Pounds of Clothes Cleaned				
<i>Normalized Quantity* (per year)</i>	12,892.15	14,616.93			12,120.55
*See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information					

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress.

Increase in gallons used was a result of two factors. 1. A sharp decrease in commercial cleaning due to Sept. 11, 2001 in the hospitality industry . 2. A substantial increase in heavy stage draperies cleaning for schools required more solvents and less reclamation. Our pre-filter system requires the use of one micron bags to catch the lint and soil before attaching to the cartridge filter paper and reduce the flow of solvents. The bags themselves hold solvents that must be drained before removing and replacing with a clean bag. The drained bags contain small amounts of solvents in the fibers. We decided to use an old and obsolete extractor to spin the remaining solvents out of the bags. Following the OSHA guidelines the operator saves nine (9) liters of solvents per week or a total of 468 liters of solvents annually. The saved solvents are then placed back into the system to be reused and filtered. An annual savings of 121.68 gallons or approximately \$242 is achieved while protecting the environment. The additional savings of sales taxes of approximately \$19.36 and the Illinois solvent fees for the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund adds an \$42.35 savings for a grand total of \$303.71 per year. 3. Because of this change in product mix, we have changed our performance commitment from 1837 gallons to 1885 gallons. We believe this is a more realistic goal under the current circumstances.

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL).

Governor's Pollution Prevention at the Waste Management & Research Center

Section C

(continued)

C.3

Performance Commitment 3

a. Use this table to report data related to your third performance commitment.

Category (see page 16 of the instructions): Waste					
Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): Total Solid Waste					
	<i>Baseline (as stated in your application)</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application)</i>
<i>Calendar Year</i>	2000	2001			2003
<i>Actual Quantity (per year)</i>	4736	4160			4160 (optional)
<i>Measurement Units</i>	Pounds				
<i>Normalizing Factor*</i>	1.0	.9893372			1.0 (optional)
<i>Basis for your Normalizing Factor*</i>	Pounds of Clothes Cleaned				
<i>Normalized Quantity* (per year)</i>	4736	4205			4160
*See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information					

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress.

Because of Sept. 11, 2001 we lost a large account in December which was all processed with no poly. This customer has been eliminated from our poundage. No bagging accounts are delivered indoors with no outdoor weather affecting the delivery. This loss was an indoor delivery.: WASTE
Norco Cleaners, Inc. uses clear plastic poly to bag the clean clothing. Several of our commercial customers receive their deliveries inside their property. Since the clean items would not be exposed to the weather elements, we eliminated the use of the poly bag for those accounts that would agree to reducing waste. The poly rolls we purchase are a 32 pound roll. We consistently save 1.5 rolls of poly per month. The annual savings is eighteen rolls of poly with the equivalent weight of 576 pounds of waste not going to a landfill. We achieved this level of savings by bulk packaging and not bagging many items. The annual cost savings is 28 rolls at \$26 each equals \$468 plus the additional savings of sales taxes.

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL).
Governor's Pollution Prevention

Section C

(continued)

C.4

Performance Commitment 4

a. Use this table to report data related to your fourth performance commitment.

Category (see page 16 of the instructions): Energy Used

Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): Total Energy Used

	<i>Baseline (as stated in your application)</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application)</i>
<i>Calendar Year</i>	1999	2001			2003
<i>Actual Quantity (per year)</i>	4365.1	3816.04			3899.90 (optional)
<i>Measurement Units</i>	MMBtus				
<i>Normalizing Factor*</i>	1.0	.9893372			1.0 (optional)
<i>Basis for your Normalizing Factor*</i>	Pounds of Clothes Cleaned				
<i>Normalized Quantity* (per year)</i>	4365.1	3857.72			3899.90

*See pages 15-17 of the instructions for more information

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress.

The drycleaning operation requires steam to press the garments. Steam is also required to heat the building in the winter months. Another very significant application for steam in the plant operations is the production of steam to provide heat to dry the textiles that have either been drycleaned, wet cleaned, or laundered. Our annual usage of natural gas has been 43,651 therms. We were producing 22.94 pounds per therm or .0435914 therms per pound in the year 2000 prior to our installation of a heat exchanger system. The installation was completed in June of 2001. Our target was set at .038947 therms per pound process or 25.68 pounds per therm. We achieved our goal plus as can be determined by the following facts. In July we observed a significant drop in the use of therms. On an annual calculation for 2001 with the reduced usage starting in July we dropped to 38,160.42 therms in 2001 from the previous year. At December 31, 2001 we were producing 25.96 pounds per therm or .0385193 therms per pound. We have accomplished a 12.579% reduction in the use of therms of natural gas in just six months. The cost of \$1.163 per therm for January 2001 would have made a savings of \$6386 annually; however the price of gas gradually dropped to \$.262 in December making an annual savings at the lowest level of \$1438.64.

The heat exchange unit obtains heated steam that is returned from the drying and pressing equipment via the steam traps. This is called condensate steam that returns to a tank that can be used as hot make-up water to be injected as required back into the boiler. We re-routed the return steam condensate to pre-heat our hot water tank for our laundry and wet cleaning department. After which the cooled water is returned to the return tank to be injected into our 50 horse power boiler.

The cost of the heat exchanger unit was \$3124.75 plus installation of \$1500 for a total of \$4624.75. With a projected minimal annual cost savings of \$2877.28 at the lowest cost per therm invoiced in 2001 the pay back would be 1.607 years.

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL).

Governor's Pollution Prevention

Section D

Public Outreach and Performance Reporting

- D.1 Please briefly summarize the public outreach and reporting activities that your facility has conducted during the year. Feel free, but not obligated, to attach supporting materials (e.g., meeting agendas, public announcements). 1. Counter Flyer for retail customers for the Illinois Drycleaner Star Recognition Program. 2. Flyer/Direct Mail to commercial customers for the Star Program and NEPT. 3. Dolton Newsletter - Published by the Village. 4. Dolton Chamber of Commerce Newsletter. 5. Changeable letter sign on stand along sign in front of building.

- D.2 Please indicate which of the following methods your facility plans to use to make its Performance Track Annual Performance Report available to the public. Please check as many as are appropriate.

☒ Website (URL)

☐ Open House

☒ Meetings

☒ Press Releases

☒ Community Advisory Panel

☒ Other SBO?SBAP National Conference June 29-July2, 2002 at the Westin Chicago Hotel

Section E

Self-Certification of Continued Program Participation

On behalf of Norco Cleaners, Inc.
(name of my facility)

I certify that

- ◆ I have read and agree to the terms and conditions specified in *the National Environmental Performance Track Program Guide*. This facility, to the best of my knowledge, continues to meet all program criteria;
- ◆ I have personally examined and am familiar with the information contained in this Annual Performance Report. The information contained in this report is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, true, accurate, and complete;
- ◆ My facility has an environmental management system (EMS), as defined in the Performance Track EMS criteria, including systems to maintain compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements in place at the facility, and the EMS will be maintained for the duration of the facility's participation in the program;
- ◆ My facility has conducted an objective assessment of its compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements; and the facility has corrected all identified instances of potential or actual noncompliance; and
- ◆ Based on the foregoing compliance assessments and subsequent corrective actions (if any were necessary), my facility is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, currently in compliance with applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements.

I agree that EPA's decision whether to accept participants into or remove them from the National Environmental Performance Track is wholly discretionary, and I waive any right that may exist under any law to challenge EPA's acceptance or removal decision.

I am the senior manager with responsibility for the facility and am fully authorized to execute this statement on behalf of the corporation or other legal entity whose facility is part of the National Environmental Performance Track program.

Signature/Date 5/23/2002

Printed Name Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. John Spomar Jr.

Title President

Phone Number/E-mail Address 708/841-6220 Spomar1@aol.com

Facility Name Norco Cleaners, Inc

Facility Street Address 1320 E. Dolton Ave.

Performance Track Identification Number A050003

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 188 hours per respondent annually. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.